(f) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to ensure utilization of ITI's expertise in communication sector and its survival against its overseas competitors in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in its Management Committee Meeting on 12.07.2006 has decided to continue reservation quota to M/s ITI Ltd.

(c) to (f) BSNL generally incorporate Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) clause in the tenders so that after sale services for the maintenance of the equipment so procured is assured. In one of the tenders, ITI could not meet the eligibility criteria of being a manufacturer of Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) and hence its bid was rejected. ITI subsequently has taken up manufacturing of CPEs and, therefore, they have tendered their bid in a recent Broadband tender by BSNL.

Foreign CEOS in Indian telecom companies

1660. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed to allow Foreign Chief Executive Officer in Indian telephone companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether all aspect including security aspects have been taken into consideration before deciding upon such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per the extant policy as notified *vide* Press Note No. 5 (2005 series) dated 3.11.2005, the majority Directors on the Board including Chairman, Managing Director and chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall be resident Indian citizens, enforced through licence agreement.

Digital Device

1661. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNI CATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Qualcomm has recently told the Government that if the current spectrum policy remains unchanged, it will perpetuate over the long term a digital device in India by keeping consumers largely limited to voice service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. qualcomm has stated, among others, that the current approach of spectrum assignment focuses on voice services while limiting forward-looking operator's ability to facilitate broad social benefit *via* broadband wireless data and information services. According to Qualcomm, this policy limits the present value of 3G capabilities in the Indian market and prevents service providers from offering broadband data services in rural markets despite availability of spectrum in these areas. Qualcomm has further said that the practical result of this policy, if maintained, is that it will perpetuate over the long term a digital divide in India by keeping Indian consumers on limited, voice-only 2g services while china, Europe and indeed, the rest of the world, move aggressively to advanced networks and a rich mix of compelling voice and data services based on 3G CDMA (CDMA 2000 and WCDMA).

(c) The Spectrum Policy would take into account all relevant aspects, as well as available technologies in this regard.

Upgradation of Post Offices in Nagaland

1662. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the upgradation and modernization of post office services in the various districts in the State of Nagaland.

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the details of funds sanctioned for this purpose during the current year; and